

October 11, 2021

Susan M. Smoller  
3 Lowman Circle  
Peabody, MA 01960  
978-535-3409  
[susan.smoller@gmail.org](mailto:susan.smoller@gmail.org)

MEPA Office  
Attn: Tori Kim  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Hello,  
Thank you for this opportunity to share my comments on the proposed amendments to MEPA regulations.

As a citizen who has been involved with recent actions regarding a 6-year-old plan to build a third Peaker plant in Peabody, I am pleased to see the proposed amendments to MEPA regulations and feel they are long overdue. I can only wish they could/would be used to assess SP2015A, a yet-to-be-constructed new fossil fuel project that does not meet the state's Climate Roadmap legislation and makes no sense given the prediction of climate change chaos.

All of the suggested changes regarding evaluating health impacts and considerations regarding the environmental justice (EJ) areas near the Waters River would have prevented this plan from going forward as designed. There are eight areas surrounding the plant and the plant itself is in a minority EJ area according to the latest 2020 data.

Although the Energy Facilities Siting Board did not review SP2105A, I hope that populations affected by any new fossil fuel infrastructure, regardless of the size of the project, will include a cumulative assessment of existing and historic environmental pollution. Peabody already has 2 peaker plants at Waters River, two nearby Superfund sites, a power plant at in downtown Peabody, gas pipeline, electric line transmissions, nearby highways (Routes 95, 128 and 1), hazardous toxic releases, and gas leaks.

I am also hopeful that the proposed amendments will ensure a transparent siting process; too many people were unaware of this project until February 2021 when funding was sought from the DPU. Then, the hearing was held without translators and on a weekday morning. The Peabody Municipal Light Plant did not post minutes of meetings when the plant was proposed or at any other time since the project was discussed.

Thank you.

Regards,  
*Susan M. Smoller*